Abstract of the Disclosure

A memory device having a memory array of
nonvolatile memory elements also includes one or more
5   security rows (or columns) of security bits that can be
programmed to a locked status. External memory access
requests are processed by first reading the corresponding
security bit. If the requested row or column is locked,
a default zero value is returned. Only external requests
10   of unlocked locations, and all internal access requests,
return the actual memory contents. Security bits can be
erased (unlocked), but the secured contents of the locked
row or column is also erased at the same time.